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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Stefan Dyckerhoff

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EXAMINER

MIRZA, ADNAN M

ART UNIT

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/991,109	<b>Applicant(s)</b> DYCKERHOFF ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> ADNAN M. MIRZA	<b>Art Unit</b> 2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/06/2008</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang et al (U.S. 6,795,506) and further in view of Echeita (U.S. 6,078,958).

As per claims 1,21,40,48,57 Zhang disclosed a system, comprising: a memory configured to store data associated with a plurality of incoming streams of different speeds (col. 29, lines 49-57); an interface controller comprising a first arbitration element to arbitrate among the streams to store the data in the memory, the first arbitration element including a number of first entries, one of the first entries indicating which of the streams is to be serviced in a particular first time slot, the streams being assigned to the first entries based on the speeds of the streams (col. 5, lines 51-67); and a dispatch unit comprising a second arbitration element to arbitrate among the streams and configured to read the data from the memory using the second arbitration element (col. 21, lines 52-67).

However Zhang did not disclose, "The second arbitration element including a number of second entries, one of the second entries indicating which of the streams is to be serviced in a particular

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second time slot, the streams being assigned to the second entries based on the speeds of the streams”.

In the same field of endeavor Echeita disclosed, “The broadcast center preferably includes a media concentrator with arbitration. Generally shown at 20 for processing information onto of the multiple carrier frequencies. The media concentrator with arbitration has multiple information inputs 24, 24' and 24" for providing digital information to compressor 26, 26' and 26" receive input data, compress or process the input data, determine the rate of compression on inputs 28-28" and 30-30", respectively (col. 3, lines 46-59).

It would have obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have incorporated the broadcast center preferably includes a media concentrator with arbitration. Generally shown at 20 for processing information one of multiple carrier frequencies. The media concentrator with arbitration has multiple information inputs 24, 24' and 24" for providing digital information to compressor 26, 26' and 26" receive input data, compress or process the input data, determine the rate of compression on inputs 28-28" and 30-30", respectively as taught by Echeita in the method and system of Zhang to manage the bandwidth without cropping the information.

3. As per claims 2,22 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the memory includes: a plurality of memory buckets corresponding to the streams (Zhang, col. 28, lines 65-67 & col. 29, lines 1-3).

4. As per claims 3 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the memory buckets have a fixed size (Zhang, col. 28, lines 65-67 & col. 29, lines 1-3).

5. As per claims 4,23 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the first arbitration element is configured to store a plurality of entries, each of the entries including a stream number that identifies one of the streams (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).

6. As per claims 5,24 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the number of the first entries in the first arbitration element is programmable (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).

7. As per claims 6 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the interface controller is configured to: read one of the stream numbers from the first arbitration element, providing a list of potential proxy candidates; providing a search mechanism to add more candidates to said list of potential proxy candidates; and receiving a selection of one or more of said potential proxy candidates, including a selection of said first entity (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).

8. As per claims 7,26 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the interface controller is further configured to send a stream identifier with the data transferred to the memory (Zhang, col. 21, lines 45-51).

9. As per claims 8,27 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the memory is further configured to sort the data from the interface controller based on the stream identifier (Zhang, col. 21, lines 33-43).
10. As per claims 9,28 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the first and second arbitration elements are synchronized (Zhang, col. 19, lines 41-54).
11. As per claims 10,29 Zhang-Echeita disclosed each of the second entries including a stream number that identifies one of the streams (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).
12. As per claims 11,30 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the number of second entries in the second arbitration element is programmable (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).
13. As per claims 12,31 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the dispatch unit is configured to: read one of the stream numbers from the second arbitration element, read data corresponding to the identified stream from the memory, and output the data for processing (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).
14. As per claims 13,32 Zhang-Echeita disclosed further comprising: flow control logic configured to initiate flow control on the storing of data in the memory (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).

15. As per claims 14,36,42,50 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the flow control includes dropping data from the stream (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).

16. As per claims 15,37,43,51 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the flow control includes causing the interface controller to stop storing data from the stream in the memory (Zhang, col. 21, lines 45-51).

17. As per claims 16,33,47 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the flow control logic includes: a buffer configured to temporarily store the data from the interface controller in a plurality of entries, a counter configured to determine a number of entries in the buffer corresponding to each of the streams (Zhang, col. 29, lines 49-57), and comparator configured to determine whether to initiate the flow control for each of the streams based on the determined number of entries for the stream (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).

18. As per claims 17,34,41,49 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the comparator is configured to compare the determined number of entries for a stream to a watermark and initiate the flow control for the stream when the determined number of entries exceeds the watermark (Zhang, col. 29, lines 49-57).

19. As per claims 18,35,44,52 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the comparator is further configured to compare the determined number of entries for the stream to a second watermark

and drop data from the stream when the determined number of entries exceeds the second watermark (Zhang, col. 29, lines 49-57).

20. As per claims 19,38,45 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein each of the streams has an associated watermark for performing flow control on the storing of data in the memory (Zhang, col. 21, lines 45-51).

21. As per claims 20,39,46 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein each of the streams has two associated watermarks for use in performing flow control on the storing of data in the memory (Zhang, col. 21, lines 45-51).

22. As per claim 25 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the storing includes: reading one of the stream numbers from the first arbitration element, gathering data corresponding to the identified stream, and transferring the data to the memory (Zhang, col. 21, lines 52-67).

23. As per claims 55,56 Zhang-Echeita disclosed a system for performing flow control on data in a plurality of incoming streams of variable speeds, comprising: a buffer configured to temporarily store data from a plurality of streams of variable speeds in a plurality of entries (Zhang, col. 21, lines 45-51); a counter configured to determine a number of entries in the buffer corresponding to each of the streams (Zhang, col. 21, lines 45-51); and a comparator configured to: compare the determined number of entries for a stream to first and second watermarks, initiate flow control for the stream when the determined number of entries exceeds the first



watermark, and drop data from the stream when the determined number of entries exceeds the second watermark (Zhang, col. 10, lines 19-32).

24. As per claims 58,60 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein the first arbitration element is configured to arbitrate among the streams of variable speeds to store the data in the memory based on speeds of the streams and the second arbitration element is configured to arbitrate among the streams of variable speeds to read the data from the memory based on the speeds of the streams (Zhang, col. 20, lines 40-48).

25. As per claims 59,61 Zhang-Echeita disclosed wherein at least one of the arbitration element or the second arbitration element is configured to be reprogrammed based on an input regarding a speed of at least one of the streams (Zhang, col. 28, lines 6-19).

### ***Response to Arguments***

26. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-61 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

27. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Adnan Mirza whose telephone number is (571)-272-3885.

28. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday during normal business hours. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571)-272-3933. The fax for this group is (703)-746-7239. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

29. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866)-217-9197 (toll-free).

/A. M. M./

Examiner, Art Unit 2145

/Jason D Cardone/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145